

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07015 211513Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 IO-13

ACDA-07 MC-02 /097 W

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R 211405Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3748

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PORT SAID POUCH

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: MOSCOW 8040

SUMMARY. LEBANESE SITUATION DOMINATES LOCAL DAILIES MAY 21,

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07015 211513Z

ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN PRESS APPEARS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER LEBANESE

HEADED FOR DISASTER OR EDGING TOWARD COMPROMISE. AHRAM EDITORIAL REVIVES OLD EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTIVE ARAB MEDIATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS. SYRIA NOT SPECIFICALLY ATTACKED IN EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT LEBANESE EVENTS, ALTHOUGH BLISTERING ATTACK BY KAMAL JUMBLATT AGAINST SARG, SYRIAN BA'ATH, AND SA'IQA REPORTED. PAPERS ALSO NOTE LEBANESE UNHAPPINESS WITH DELAY OF QUADRIPARTITE (EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT) PRIME MINISTERIAL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL LOCAL DAILIES BANNER HEADLINE COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO DELEGATION HEADS OF ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA, IN WHICH TOPIC LEBANON PREDOMINATED. SADAT HAD NO CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLUTION OF DETERIORATING LEBANESE SITUATION, BUT CALLED ON LEBANESE LEADERS TO SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO HALT BLOODSHED. PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED THAT EGYPT REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY FORM OF LEBANESE PARTITION AND ANY MOVES TO HARM INTERESTS OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.

2. OTHER THAN GENERAL HORTATORY COMMENTS OF SADAT, LOCAL DAILIES APPEAR DIVIDED CONCERNING ACTUAL SITUATION IN LEBANON. AHRAM PREDICTS DARKLY THAT LEBANON HEADING FOR TOTAL CIVIL WAR AND QUOTES LEBANESE ARMY CHIEF IN NORTHERN LEBANON AHMAD MA'MARI, WHO THREATENED TO OCCUPY ZAHGORTA IF PRESIDENT FRANJIYA DOES NOT RESIGN IMMEDIATELY. ON OTHER HAND, AKHBAR NOTES THAT THERE GROWING POSSIBILITY OF TRUCE IN LEBANON AND NOTES RECENT REDUCTION IN LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN BEIRUT.

3. AHRAM EDITOR IN CHIEF ALI HAMDI AL-GAMAL IN EDITORIAL CALLS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EARLIER EGYPTIAN SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE ARAB MOVE IN LEBANON NOW THAT UNILATERAL (READ SYRIA) MOVES HAVE PROVED INEFFECTIVE. SPECIFICALLY, AL-GAMAL SUGGESTS FORMATION OF ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF EGYPT, KUWAIT, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, AND MOROCCO TO MEDIATE DISPUTE ON GROUND IN LEBANON AND TO CONTACT LEADERS OF VARIOUS OPPOSING FACTIONS. IN ADDITION, AL-GAMAL RESUSCITATES IDEA OF TOKEN AL SECURITY FORCE WHICH COULD ACT AS SYMBOL OF COLLECTIVE ARAB CONCERN WITH STABILIZING LEBANESE SITUATION. AL-GAMAL SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS SHOULD CONSIDER THESE EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS AS SOON AS PRESIDENT FRANJIYA SUBMITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 07015 211513Z

HIS RESIGNATION AND SARKIS CAN ASSUME OFFICE.

4. LOCAL DAILIES TAKE NOTE OF PRAVDA ARTICLE CITED REFTTEL, BUT ONLY EMPHASIS IN EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT IS ON SOVIET PRAISE FOR JUMBLATT AND NATIONALIST FORCES IN LEBANON. NO MENTION MADE OF ARAB LEAGUE MEDIATION EFFORT IN LEBANON. IN ARTICLES DEALING WITH PRAVDA PRAISE OF JUMBLATT, CAIRO PRESS ALSO NOTES SEARING ATTACK BY JUMBLATT PREVIOUS DAY ON

SYRIA, CONDEMNING SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, CHASTIZING UNPRODUCTIVE MEDDLING BY SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY, AND ACCUSING SA'IQA OF BEING NOTHING LESS THAN ARM OF SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE.

5. AHAM REPORTS ON STORY IN WASHINGTON POST BY CORRESPONDENT JONATHAN RANDEL CLAIMING THAT ISRAELIS SUPPLYING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF RIFLES AND AMMUNITION TO PHALANGIST FORCE IN LEBANON. MOST BIZARRE STORY IN AHAM, HOWEVER, IS ITEM IN OVERALL COVERAGE OF LEBANESE SITUATION, IN WHICH AHAM PICKS UP DENIAL BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND US EMBASSY TEL AVIV OF EARLIER NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT APPROXIMATELY 20-25 THOUSAND US TROOPS STATIONED IN EUROPE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL, WHERE THEY WILL PUT ON ISRAELI UNIFORMS AND MOVE AGAINST LEBANON. AHAM RAISES STORY APPARENTLY ONLY TO QUOTE DENIALS AND ALSO NOTES STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD THAT US AT PRESENT SEES NO NEED TO INTERVENE IN LEBANESE SIATUION.

6. LOCAL DAILIES ALSO QUOTE RADIO BEIRUT AND NEWS AGENCIES IN LEBANON THAT LEBANESE UNHAPPY WITH DELAY OF QUADRIPARTITE PRIME MINISTERIAL MEETING, SINCE SOLUTION OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN DIFFERENCES VIEWED IN BEIRUT AS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCTION OF HOSTILITIES IN LEBANON ITSELF.

7. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS BY AND LARGE ADHERING TO POLICY OF NOT ATTACKING SYRIA OVER LEBANESE SITUATION. ONLY COMMENTS CONCERNING SYRIA CONTAINED IN QUOTES BY VARIOUS LEBANESE PERSONALITIES (G.G. JUMBLATT) AND THESE COMMENTS NOT PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON FRONT PAGES OF DAILIES. EDITORIAL COMMENT CONCERNING SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON ALMOST TOTALLY LACKING, ALTHOUGH AL-GAMAL EDITORIAL DOES OPINE THAT "UNILATERAL" EFFORTS HAVE FAILED AND AL EFFORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. ESSENTIALLY, LOCAL PRESS APPEARS TO BE HOLDING BREATH UNTIL THERE SOME IDEA AS TO WHETHER QUADRIPARTITE MEETING TO BE HELD AND WHAT LIKELY TO BE RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 CAIRO 07015 211513Z

OF RIYADH TALKS; IF THEY EVENTUALLY TAKE PLACE.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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